Nationalisation of Man Power Export Activities

524. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India continues to be one of the major exporter of man-power to the Gulf and other developed countries;

(b) if so, the number of Indian labour force went abroad during the years 1984 and 1985, separately;

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to nationalise the man-power export activities with a view to protect our labour force from illegal extraction of money and other clandestine activities of the private man-power export agencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During 1984, approximately 2.06 lakhs persons obtained emigration clearances and during 1985, approximately 1.63 lakh persons obtained emigration clearances.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Central Government has however advised all State Governments to consider setting up State Manpower Corporations for deploying Indian workers for overseas employment. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi, have already set up State-owned Corporations. Further, whenever cases of exploitation are brought to the notice of the Government, necessary action is taken under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder. Whenever complaints regarding cheating are received in the Ministry, the same are referred to the police authorities for necessary investigation and action at their end.

Railway lines in Tribal areas of Bihar

525. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tribal areas of Bihar continue to be ignored by Government in the matter of providing new lines for improving upon the existing Railway facilities;

(b) whether the demand for direct rail link between Hazaribagh-Giridih and for provision of faster rail links between Begusarai-Patna have been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, what are its respective status of implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Survey for a new B. G. line from Ranchi to Giridih via Hazaribagh was conducted in 1986. The project was not found financially viable. Due to acute constraint of resources, it is difficult to consider this project at present. There is no proposal to introduce any new service on Begusarai-Patna section at present.

Check on the prices of essential commodities

526. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential commodities